

Objectives, Composition and Organizational Structure of the
Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research

A. Objectives

1. The main objectives of the Consultative Group (assisted as necessary by its Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) described in Part C below) are:

- (i) on the basis of a review of existing national, regional and international research activities, to examine the needs of developing countries for special effort in agricultural research at the international and regional levels in critical subject sectors unlikely otherwise to be adequately covered by existing research facilities, and to consider how these needs could be met; 1/
- (ii) to attempt to ensure maximum complementarity of international and regional efforts with national efforts in financing and undertaking agricultural research in the future and to encourage full exchange of information among national, regional and international agricultural research centers;
- (iii) to review the financial and other requirements of those international and regional research activities which the Group considers of high priority, and to consider the provision of finance for those activities, 2/ taking into account the need to ensure continuity of research over a substantial period;
- (iv) to undertake a continuing review of priorities and research networks related to the needs of developing countries, to enable the Group to adjust its support policies to changing needs, and to achieve economy of effort; and
- (v) to suggest feasibility studies of specific proposals, to reach mutual agreement on how these studies should be undertaken and financed, and to exchange information on the results.

1/ Research is used in this document in a broad sense to include not only the development and testing of improved production technology, but also training and other activities designed to facilitate and speed effective and wide-spread use of improved technology.

2/ Final decisions on funding remain a responsibility of each member in connection with specific proposals.

In all of the deliberations of the Consultative Group and the Technical Advisory Committee, account will be taken not only of technical, but also of ecological, economic and social factors.

B. Composition

2. The co-sponsors of the Group are the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD), and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). Its initial membership, in addition to the co-sponsors, consists of the following countries, regional development banks, private foundations and other organizations interested in supporting international agricultural research related to the problems of the developing countries;

(To be filled in at time of adoption)

The following countries are participating in the Group as observers:

(To be filled in at time of adoption)

Other interested parties may be invited to join the Group or to participate as observers, as decided by the members.

Membership in the Group involves no commitment to provide funds.

The Chairman and Secretary of the Group will be provided by the IBRD and its base will be at IBRD headquarters in Washington, but the venue of its meetings will be decided from time to time by its members.

C. Supporting Services

Technical Advisory Committee

3. A small Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) will be created by the Consultative Group, composed of distinguished international experts from developed and developing countries, nominated by the co-sponsors and appointed by the Group. Appointments will be for three years except that in the case of the first appointees one third, selected by lot, will have one-year appointments and one third, similarly selected, will have two-year appointments. The TAC will be supplemented by advisers with special expertise, who may be invited to serve individually or on panels to consider particular problems. TAC will report to the Consultative Group.

4. TAC will, acting either upon reference from the Consultative Group or on its own initiative:

- (i) advise the Consultative Group on the main gaps and priorities in agricultural research related to the problems of the developing countries, both in the technical and socio-economic fields, based on a continuing review of existing national, regional and international research activities;
- (ii) recommend to the Consultative Group feasibility studies designed to explore in depth how best to organize and conduct agricultural research on priority problems, particularly those calling for international or regional effort;
- (iii) examine the results of these or other feasibility studies and present its views and recommendations for action for the guidance of the Consultative Group;
- (iv) advise the Consultative Group on the effectiveness of specific existing international research programs; and
- (v) in other ways encourage the creation of an international network of research institutions and the effective interchange of information among them.

These terms of reference may be amended from time to time by the Consultative Group.

5. The Chairman of the Technical Advisory Committee will be appointed by the Consultative Group and its Secretary will be provided by FAO. Its meetings will normally be held at FAO headquarters in Rome.

6. As a supporting service to the TAC, FAO will endeavor to supply up-to-date information on current and proposed research activities related to the problem of the developing countries.

7. FAO will consult with TAC concerning the feasibility, method and cost of establishing a comprehensive data bank on agricultural research related to the needs of the developing countries, and the form in which this information can be made readily available to potential users and will prepare a report on this matter for the consideration of the Consultative Group.

The Secretariat

8. The Secretariat will be composed initially of the Secretary of the Consultative Group and the Secretary of the Technical Advisory Committee. Arrangements will be worked out to ensure liaison and collaboration between the two wings of the Secretariat.

D. Financial Arrangements

9. IBRD has agreed to pay for the personal services and travel costs of the Secretary of the Consultative Group, and FAO has agreed to pay for the personal services and travel costs of the Secretary of the TAC.
10. Arrangements for financing the expenses of the members of the TAC and of its advisers are still to be decided.
11. With respect to feasibility studies referred to under 1 (v), arrangements for financing will be made by the Consultative Group or by individual members on an ad hoc basis.

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